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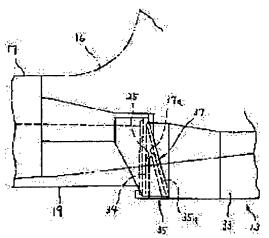
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(54) CONNECTING STRUCTURE BETWEEN AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT AND DUCT FOR VEHICLE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve the productivity as well as to improve the assembling performance by making a connecting structure between an air-conditioning unit and a duct for a vehicle simple, easy, and certain. CONSTITUTION: A first engagement part 35 having a Ti taper surface 35a which turns to the forward, that is, to the upstream direction of air flow and has a normal facing to the upper diagonal direction is provided in the vicinity of an air outlet 34 of a heater unit 13, and also a second engagement part 37 having a taper surface 37a which faces the back and has a normal facing to the lower diagonal direction is provided near a front end part of a center console 17 storing a rear duct 19 in its inside. Thereby, an assemble work can be performed from the upper part of the center console 17 stored the rear duct 19 in its inside while the first engagement part 35 is simply engaged with the second engagement part 37 by sliding the second engagement part 37 forward so that the respective



taper surfaces 35a, 37a are butted, and at the same time, the heater unit 13 can be connected to the rear duct 19.

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[54] [Title of the Invention] Connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars, and a duct

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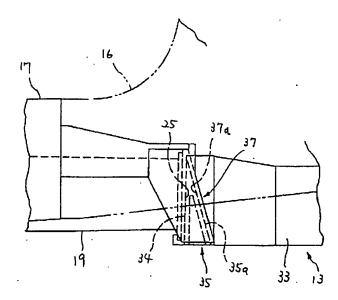
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Epitome

(57) [Abstract]

Objects of the Invention] While improving assembly nature for "the connection structure of the airconditioning unit for cars, and a duct" as a simple and positive thing, improvement in productivity is aimed at. [Elements of the Invention] While forming the front 35, i.e., the 1st engagement section which has taper side 35a which has a slanting above normal toward the upstream of the flow of air, near the air outlet 34 of the heater unit 13 Near the front edge of the center console 17 which contains the rear duct 19 inside Making it engaged simply making it slide ahead so that the 2nd engagement section 37 which has taper side 37a which has a slanting down normal toward back may be formed and each taper side 35a and 37a may contact the 1st engagement section 35 in the 2nd engagement section 37 It is the connection structure of the airconditioning unit for cars and duct which can perform attachment from the upper part of the center console 17 which contained the rear duct 19 inside, and enabled it to connect the heater unit 13 and the rear duct 19 to coincidence.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Heater core (1) To the air outlet (34) established by the air—conditioning unit (13) built in In the connection structure of the air—conditioning unit for cars and duct which connect the duct (19) to which it shows the air which blows off from the air—conditioning unit (13) concerned While preparing the 1st engagement section (35) near the air outlet (34) of said air—conditioning unit (13) The 2nd engagement section

37) is prepared near the edge of the upstream of the frame (17) which contains said duct (19) inside. Even if there is little said 1st engagement section (35) or said 2nd engagement section (37), it is a taper side (35a, 37a) to either. It forms. The taper side concerned (35a, 37a) The other party's engagement section (35 37) By naking said 2nd engagement section (37) engage with said 1st engagement section (35) so that it may contact Connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars and duct which are characterized by connecting said duct (19) to the air outlet (34) of said air-conditioning unit (13).

Claim 2] Said 1st engagement section (35) is a taper side (35a) which has a slanting above normal toward the upstream of the flow of air. While having, said 2nd engagement section (37) Taper side which has a slanting down normal toward the downstream (37a) It has and is each taper side (35a, 37a) about said 2nd engagement section (37) to said 1st engagement section (35). By making it engaged so that it may contact Connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars and a duct according to claim 1 as come to connect said duct (19) with the air outlet (34) of said air-conditioning unit (13).

[Claim 3] The engagement section concerned of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of air at said 1st engagement section (35) or said 2nd engagement section (37) (35 37) Connection structure of the air—conditioning unit for cars and duct according to claim 1 or 2 which come to prepare the positioning section (37c) which carries out mutual positioning.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] About the connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars, and a duct, especially this invention simplifies connection structure and relates to what aimed at improvement in assembly nature.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] From the former, the conditioner for cars which sent harmony air through the duct towards the backseat is known, and the overall amenity of vehicle indoor space is planned. Loading to the car of the air—conditioning unit assembly about such backseat air—conditioning is set like the vehicle indoor erector of car assembly Rhine, for example, is performed as follows.

[0003] As shown in <u>drawing 7</u>, first, it is carried in a car, and as the heater unit 113 makes fitting connection of the air inlet 125 of the rear duct 119, it attaches the rear duct 119 concerned in the air outlet 134 established by this heater unit 113. Subsequently, the in SUTOROA panel 116 and the center console 117 are attached from these upper parts. In addition, the in SUTOROA panel 116 is equipped with audio equipment 15 etc., and the clamp face is covered with it by the cluster lid 14.

[0004] If it is when such a conditioner for cars performs backseat air—conditioning, the harmony air by which temperature control was carried out within the heater unit 113 blows off from an air outlet 134, and this harmony air passes through an air inlet 125, is guided at the rear duct 119, and is sent towards back. the rear vent section 126 which started towards slanting back is formed in the downstream back end of the rear duct 119, and the air which flowed down in this rear vent section 126 blows off from the rear vent outlet 128 boiled and prepared in the back end side of the center console 117 towards backseat crew.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, loading to the car of the conditioner for cars accompanied by the above-mentioned conventional backseat air-conditioning must be set like the vehicle indoor erector of car assembly Rhine, and must be performed with the posture in which it is hard to work in the narrow vehicle interior of a room, and the activity which moreover concentrates many rear ducts 119, in SUTOROA panels 116, and car components of center console 117 grade size versatility, and is attached in a position one by one, respectively is required. Thus, for the difficulty activity, about [being low] and the

number of erectors also had very large working capacity, and it had become the factor which checks expansion of mass-production nature.

[0006] This invention is made in view of the trouble of the above conventional techniques, and the purpose of this invention is shown in aiming at improvement in productivity while it improves assembly nature for the connection structure of the air—conditioning unit for cars, and a duct as a simple and positive thing.

[Means for Solving the Problem] The configuration of this invention according to claim 1 for attaining the above-mentioned purpose In the connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars and duct which connect the duct which shows the air which blows off from the air-conditioning unit concerned to the air outlet established by the air-conditioning unit in which a heater core is built While preparing the 1st engagement section near the air outlet of said air-conditioning unit, the 2nd engagement section is prepared near the edge of the upstream of the frame which contains said duct inside. By [of said 1st engagement section or said 2nd engagement section] forming a taper side in either at least, and making said 2nd engagement section engage with said 1st engagement section so that the taper side concerned may contact the other party's engagement section It is the connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars and duct which are characterized by connecting said duct to the air outlet of said air-conditioning unit. [0008] The configuration of this invention according to claim 2 is set in the connection structure of the airconditioning unit for cars and a duct according to claim 1. Moreover, said 1st engagement section While having the taper side which has a slanting above normal toward the upstream of the flow of air, said 2nd engagement section It is characterized by connecting said duct to the air outlet of said air-conditioning unit by having the taper side which has a slanting down normal toward the downstream, and making it engaged so that each taper side may contact said 1st engagement section in said 2nd engagement section. [0009] Moreover, the configuration of this invention according to claim 3 is characterized by preparing the positioning section which carries out positioning between the engagement sections concerned of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of air at said 1st engagement section or said 2nd engagement section in the connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars and a duct according to claim 1 or 2. [0010]

[Function] If it is in this invention according to claim 1, it sets like the vehicle indoor erector of car assembly Rhine, and as a duct is contained to the interior of a frame, it is first attached in it beforehand. Subsequently, making it engaged simply making the taper side of the 2nd engagement section of the frame which contained the duct inside, or the 1st engagement section of an air—conditioning unit contact the other party's engagement section, and making it slide, attachment from the upper part of the unified duct and a frame is made, and, moreover, connection between an air—conditioning unit and a duct is made to coincidence. Thus, while connection between an air—conditioning unit and a duct is ensured [simply and] also in the narrow vehicle interior of a room, the number of erectors is also reduced.

[0011] Making it simply engaged, if it is in this invention according to claim 2 making each taper sides of the 2nd engagement section of the frame which contains a duct inside, and the 1st engagement section of an air—conditioning unit contact, and making it slide in the direction of the upstream, attachment from the upper part of the unified duct and a frame is made, and, moreover, connection between an air—conditioning unit and a duct is made to coincidence. Moreover, the air inlet of a duct is pressed by operation of a taper side at an air—conditioning unit side, and airtightness improves.

[0012] If constituted like this invention according to claim 3, positioning of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of the air at the time of assembly by the positioning section will be made. [0013]

[Example] Hereafter, one example of this invention is explained based on a drawing. The side elevation and drawing 2 (A) which show the condition that the air—conditioning unit assembly which applied the connection structure of the air—conditioning unit for cars of this invention and a duct connected drawing 1. The top view of a heater unit shown in drawing 1, and this drawing (B) The side elevation of this heater unit and drawing 3 (A) the important section sectional view and this drawing (B) showing the center console shown in drawing 1. The side elevation showing a rear duct, drawing 4 (A), (B), and (C). The side elevation, the top view and drawing seen from back in which it is shown near [which is shown in drawing 1] the back end section of a heater unit, drawing 5 (A), (B), and (C), respectively. The side elevation, the top view and drawing seen from the front in which it is shown near the front end section of the center console shown in drawing 1, and drawing 6 are the partial expansion side elevations showing the connection structure of the air—conditioning unit and duct which are shown in drawing 1, respectively. In addition, since an understanding is easy, it explains by making an opposite direction into back for convenience, making the travelling direction (right of drawing 1) of a car as the front.

[0014] As shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, the air-conditioning unit assembly concerning this example makes the principal part the heater unit 13 as an air-conditioning unit of the air conditioner for cars, connects the in SUTOROA panel 16, the rear duct 19 (it is equivalent to a duct), and the center console 17 (it is equivalent to a frame)

with this heater unit 13, and is constituted.

0015] The air conditioner for cars which has said heater unit 13 is contained in the very narrow storage space ahead of the front seat of the vehicle interior of a room formed by the dash panel, the floor panel, etc. (neither is illustrated). Generally, as vehicle indoor air and vehicle outdoor air are indicated to be the intake units (not shown) incorporated alternatively to drawing 2, the air conditioner for cars The cooler unit 12 which cools the air which has flowed down from the intake unit, It branches by the ratio of a request of the air cooled by the cooler unit 12 by the air mix door 6. A duct is minded from vent-ports 2 and 3, the foot opening 4, or the defrost opening 5, without carrying out heating a part of air with the heater core 1 etc., not making it the air of predetermined temperature or heating. Moreover, it has the heater unit 13 which blows off from the air outlet 34 mentioned later to the vehicle interior of a room through the rear duct 19, and airflow, temperature, an outlet, etc. are controlled suitably, and air—conditioning of the vehicle interior of a room is performed so that it may be in the temperature condition for which vehicle indoor crew asks.

[0016] Thus, the heater unit 13 is formed in the cross direction abbreviation central part so that the air conditioner for cars may usually blow off equally the air by which temperature control was carried out to

cross direction right and left. [0017] Moreover, the in SUTOROA panel 16 is installed in the central part ahead of [of the vehicle interior of a room] a front seat, and it is equipped with the audio equipment 15 which becomes the opening from a tape deck, radio, etc., and is made to have covered by the cluster lid which does not illustrate the clamp face, as shown in drawing 1.

[0018] The center console 17 is arranged so that it may extend towards back from the in SUTOROA panel 16, and it is fixed to a car frame. This center console 17 is fabricated from a resin ingredient, and is fixed to the car frame 21 through an angle type 20 in that back lateral portion. As shown in <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 3</u> (A), the storage space 23 which puts accessories into the center console 17 is formed, and the covering device material 24 which opens and closes top-face opening of this storage space 23 is attached free [closing motion].

[0019] In this example, the rear duct 19 is contained inside the center console 17. the rear duct 19 is for turning and showing the air from the heater unit 13 of the air conditioner for cars to a vehicle indoor backseat, and can insert in a missions lever — as — two forks — it is formed in the configuration.
[0020] In attaching the rear duct 19 in the center console 17, as shown in drawing 3, it carries out fitting of the 2nd engagement rib 44 formed in the lateral surface 43 of the rear duct 19 to the 1st engagement rib 42 formed in the medial surface 41 of the center console 17, thereby, the center console 17 and the rear duct 19 unify — having — console box ashy — 10 is constituted. In addition, the engagement ribs 41 and 42 function also as a reinforcement means.

[0021] Said rear duct 19 is also fabricated from a resin ingredient, and as shown in <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 3</u> (A), it is attached to the interior of the center console 17 concerned from the inferior—surface—of—tongue clear aperture 22 formed in the inferior—surface—of—tongue side of the center console 17. As shown in <u>drawing 3</u> (B), the air inlet 25 which introduces the air from the air conditioner for cars is formed in the front end of the rear duct 13, and the rear vent section 26 which started to the downstream back end towards slanting back, and the rear foot section 27 prolonged in the cross direction are branched and formed in it. On the other hand, the air which flowed down in the rear foot section 27 blows off from the foot outlet 29 formed in the side face of the center console 17 towards backseat crew's step by the air which flowed down in the rear vent section 26 blowing off from the rear vent outlet 28 formed in the back end side of the center console 17 towards backseat crew's upper half of the body. In addition, although an illustration abbreviation is carried out, the door object which controls the amount of wind distribution to the rear vent section 26 or the rear foot section 27 is prepared in the branch location to Ryobe.

[0022] As shown in drawing 2, the heater unit 13 of the air conditioner for cars has the body case 30 which comes to join the 1st case 31 divided into right and left, and the 2nd case 32, and while taking out the harmony air which should blow off to a backseat, the air duct 33 extended towards back is formed in one. The air inlet 25 of the rear duct 19 is connected to the air outlet 34 of this air duct 33 through the seal member which is not illustrated. In addition, the sign in drawing 2 "7" shows the stowage where it is loaded with audio equipment 15, and is really fabricated by the body case 30 of the heater unit 13.

[0023] Especially in this example, as shown in drawing 4, the 1st engagement section 35 for making it connect with the front end section of the center console 17 is formed in the both-sides section of the air duct 33 concerned [near the air outlet 34 of the air duct 33 of the heater unit 13], respectively. This 1st engagement section 35 has taper side 35a which has a slanting above normal toward the upstream of the flow of the front, i.e., air, and vertical plane 35b formed successively by this, and is presenting the shape of a wedge which sharpened up. On the other hand, as shown in drawing 3, near the edge of the upstream ahead of the center console 17 which contains the rear duct 19 inside (i.e., the flow of air), the 2nd engagement section 37 which engages with the 1st engagement section 35 of said heater unit 13 is formed.

[0024] This 2nd engagement section 37 has side vertical plane 37c (it is equivalent to the positioning section)

as well as [as shown in drawing 5] taper side 37a which has a slanting down normal toward back, i.e., the downstream, and back vertical plane 37b formed successively by this, and is presenting the shape of a concave wedge which carries out opening caudad so that the 1st engagement section 35 which presents the shape of a wedge which sharpened up may be fitted in the interior. the sign in drawing "38" and "39" — the two forks of said rear duct 19 — opening in which the air inlet 25 formed in the configuration is attached is shown. [in addition,]

[0025] As shown in drawing 6, the air inlet 25 of the rear duct 19 is easily connectable with the air outlet 34 of the heater unit 13 by making said 2nd engagement section 37 engage with said 1st engagement section 35 so that each taper side 35a and 37a may contact. Moreover, since it is attached as the air inlet 25 of the rear duct 19 presses in the direction of the air outlet 34 of the heater unit 13 according to an operation of the taper sides 35a and 37a, airtightness is securable.

[0026] The rear duct 19 in thus, the condition of having attached to the interior of the center console 17 Making it engaged simply attaching the 2nd engagement section 37 of the center console 17 from the upper part to the 1st engagement section 35 of the heater unit 13, making taper side 35a and 37a contact, and making it slide ahead The assembly of the in SUTOROA panel 16 and the center console 17 can be performed, and, moreover, thereby, connection between the heater unit 13 and the rear duct 19 is completed to coincidence. In addition, the side edge section of the 1st engagement section 35 is contacted by side vertical plane 37c of the 2nd engagement section 37, and positioning of the longitudinal direction at the time of assembly (direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of air) is possible.

[0027] Next, an operation of this example is explained. if it is when setting like the vehicle indoor erector of car assembly Rhine, connecting the in SUTOROA panel 16, the rear duct 19, and the center console 17 with the heater unit 13 and assembling an air—conditioning unit assembly — first — beforehand — the point of the 2nd engagement rib 44 of the inferior—surface—of—tongue clear aperture 22 of the center console 17 to the rear duct 19 — the 1st engagement rib 42 of the center console 17 — inserting in — making — relative — pushing in — console box ashy — 10 is assembled.

[0028] subsequently, console box ashy which did in this way, attached the center console 17 and the rear duct 19, and was unified — 10 is attached from the upper part so that the 2nd engagement section 37 of the center console 17 may engage with the 1st engagement section 35 of the heater unit 13, and the assembly of the in SUTOROA panel 16 and the center console 17 is performed. And an angle type 20 and the car frame 21 are concluded, and attachment by the car is completed.

[0029] Thus, making it engaged simply according to this example making each taper side 35a of the 2nd engagement section 37 of the center console 17, and the 1st engagement section 35 of the heater unit 13, and 37a contact, and making it slide ahead The center console 17 which contained the rear duct 19 inside can be attached from the upper part, an assembly with the in SUTOROA panel 16 can be performed, and, moreover, it becomes coincidence connectable with the heater unit 13 and the rear duct 19.

[0030] Therefore, while being able to ensure [simply and] connection between the heater unit 13 and the rear duct 19 also in the narrow vehicle interior of a room, it becomes possible to be also able to reduce the number of erectors, as a result to aim at large improvement in productivity.

[0031] Moreover, the air inlet 25 of the rear duct 19 is pressed by operation of the taper sides 35a and 37a at a heater unit side, and airtightness improves.

[0032] In addition, each element which was indicated in order that the example explained above might make an understanding of this invention easy, was not indicated in order to limit this invention, and was indicated by the above-mentioned example is the meaning also containing all the design changes belonging to the technical range of this invention, or equal objects.

[0033] Although the taper sides 35a and 37a were formed in each of the 1st engagement section 35 of the heater unit 13, and the 2nd engagement section 37 of the center console 17 in the example mentioned above This invention is not restricted to this configuration, it can prepare a projection etc. in the engagement section of another side while it forms a taper side in one of the engagement sections, and it can also consider it as the configuration which it makes engaged along one taper side as this projection etc. slides. Moreover, although the connection structure of the heater unit 13 and the rear duct 19 was explained, it is possible to apply also to the duct connection structure of other parts.

[0034]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, while preparing the 1st engagement section near the air outlet of said air—conditioning unit according to this invention according to claim 1 The 2nd engagement section is prepared near the edge of the upstream of the frame which contains said duct inside. By [of said 1st engagement section or said 2nd engagement section] forming a taper side in either at least, and making said 2nd engagement section engage with said 1st engagement section so that the taper side concerned may contact the other party's engagement section Since said duct was connected to the air outlet of said air—conditioning unit Making it engaged simply making the taper side of the 2nd engagement section of the frame which contains a duct inside, or the 1st engagement section of an air—conditioning unit contact the other

party's engagement section, and making it slide Attachment from the upper part of the frame which contained the duct inside can be performed, and, moreover, connection between an air—conditioning unit and a duct can be made to coincidence.

[0035] Therefore, while being able to ensure [simply and] connection between an air—conditioning unit and a duct also in the narrow vehicle interior of a room, it becomes possible to be also able to reduce the number of erectors, as a result to aim at large improvement in productivity.

[0036] According to this invention according to claim 2, the 1st engagement section While having the taper side which has a slanting above normal toward the upstream of the flow of air, the 2nd engagement section Since it has the taper side which has a slanting down normal toward the downstream, each taper sides of the 2nd engagement section of the frame which contains a duct inside, and the 1st engagement section of an air-conditioning unit are made to contact. Making it engaged simply making it slide in the direction of the upstream, attachment from the upper part of the frame which contained the duct inside can be performed, and, moreover, connection between an air-conditioning unit and a duct can be made to coincidence. Moreover, the air inlet of a duct is pressed by operation of a taper side at an air-conditioning unit side, and airtightness improves.

[0037] Since the positioning section which positions the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of the air between the engagement sections concerned was prepared in said 1st engagement section or said 2nd engagement section according to this invention according to claim 3, the effectiveness that positioning of the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the flow of the air at the time of assembly is attained is done so.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the side elevation showing the condition that the air-conditioning unit assembly which applied the connection structure of the air-conditioning unit for cars of this invention and a duct connected.

[Drawing 2] The top view of a heater unit where drawing 2 (A) is shown in drawing 1, and this drawing (B) are side elevations of this heater unit.

[Drawing 3] The important section sectional view showing the center console with which drawing 3 (A) is shown in drawing 1, and this drawing (B) are side elevations showing a rear duct.

[Drawing 4] Drawing 4 (A), (B), and (C) are the side elevations, the top views, and drawings seen from back in which it is shown near [which is shown in drawing 1] the back end section of a heater unit, respectively.

[Drawing 5] Drawing 5 (A), (B), and (C) are the side elevations, the top views, and drawings seen from the front in which it is shown near the front end section of the center console shown in drawing 1, respectively.

[Drawing 6] It is the partial expansion side elevation showing the connection structure of the air—conditioning unit and duct which are shown in drawing 1.

[Drawing 7] It is the decomposition perspective view of the air-conditioning unit assembly about the conventional backseat air-conditioning.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Heater core,
- 10 Console box ashy.
- 12 -- Cooler unit,
- 13 -- Heater unit (air-conditioning unit),
- 17 -- Center console (frame),
- 19 -- Rear duct (duct),
- 22 -- Inferior-surface-of-tongue clear aperture,
- 33 -- Air duct,

34 — Air outlet, 35 — The 1st engagement section, 35a — Taper side,

37 -- The 2nd engagement section,

37a — Taper side,

37c -- Side vertical plane (positioning section).

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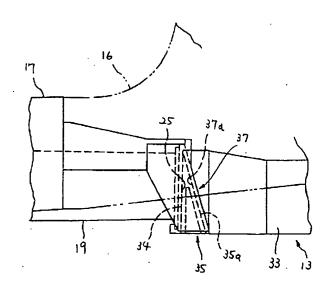
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(54)【発明の名称】 車両用空間ユニットとダクトとの接続構造

(57)【要約】

【目的】 「車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造」を簡易かつ確実なものとして組立性を改善すると共 に、生産性の向上を図る。

【構成】 ヒータユニット13の空気出口34の近傍に、前方、即ち空気の流れの上流側に向いて斜め上方向の法線をもつテーパ面35aを有する第1係合部35を設けると共に、リアダクト19を内部に収納するセンタコンソール17の前方端部近傍に、後方に向いて斜め下方向の法線をもつテーパ面37aを有する第2係合部37を設け、第1係合部35に第2係合部37をそれぞれのテーパ面35a、37aが当接するように前方にスライドさせながら簡単に係合させつつ、リアダクト19を内部に収納したセンタコンソール17の上方からの組み付けを行うことができ、同時にヒータユニット13とリアダクト19とを接続できるようにした車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造である。



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 ヒータコア(1) が内蔵される空調ユニッ ト(13)に開設された空気出口(34)に、当該空調ユニット (13)から吹き出される空気を案内するダクト(19)を接続 する車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造におい て、

前記空調ユニット(13)の空気出口(34)の近傍に第1係合 部(35)を設けると共に、前記ダクト(19)を内部に収納す る枠体(17)の上流側の端部近傍に第2係合部(37)を設 け、前記第1係合部(35)あるいは前記第2係合部(37)の 10 少なくともいずれか一方にテーパ面(35a,37a)を形成 し、当該テーパ面(35a,37a) が相手方の係合部(35,37) に当接するように前記第1係合部(35)に前記第2係合部 (37)を係合させることにより、前記空調ユニット(13)の 空気出口(34)に前記ダクト(19)を接続するようにしたと とを特徴とする車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構 造。

【請求項2】 前記第1係合部(35)は、空気の流れの上 流側に向いて斜め上方向の法線をもつテーバ面(35a) を 有すると共に、前記第2係合部(37)は、下流側に向いて 20 斜め下方向の法線をもつテーパ面(37a)を有し、前記第 1係合部(35)に前記第2係合部(37)をそれぞれのテーバ 面(35a,37a) が当接するように係合させることにより、 前記空調ユニット(13)の空気出口(34)に前記ダクト(19) を接続するようにしてなる請求項1記載の車両用空調ユ ニットとダクトとの接続構造。

【請求項3】 前記第1係合部(35)または前記第2係合 部(37)に、空気の流れに直交する方向の当該係合部(35, 37) 相互の位置決めをする位置決め部(37c)を設けてな る請求項1または2記載の車両用空調ユニットとダクト との接続構造。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、車両用空調ユニットと ダクトとの接続構造に関し、特に、接続構造を簡素化 し、組立性の向上を図ったものに関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来から、後部座席に向けてダクトを介 して調和空気を送るようにした車両用空気調和装置が知 られており、車室内空間の全体的な快適さが図られてい 40 る。このような後部座席空調に関する空調ユニットアセ ンブリの車両への搭載は、車両組立ラインの車室内組立 工程において、例えば次のように行われている。

【0003】図7に示すように、まずヒータユニット1 13が車両に搭載され、このヒータユニット113に開 設された空気出口134に、リアダクト119の空気入 □125を嵌合接続するようにして、当該リアダクト1 19を取り付ける。次いで、これらの上方からインスト ロアパネル116およびセンタコンソール117が取り 付けられる。なお、インストロアパネル116には、オ 50 合部をそれぞれのテーパ面が当接するように係合させる

ーディオ機器15などが装着され、取り付け面はクラス ターリッド14で覆われる。

【0004】このような車両用空気調和装置によって後 部座席空調を行う場合にあっては、ヒータユニット11 3内で温調された調和空気が空気出口134から吹き出 され、この調和空気は、空気入口125を通過してリア ダクト119に案内され後方に向けて送られる。 リアダ クト119の下流側後端には、斜め後方に向けて立ち上 がったリアベント部126が形成されており、このリア ベント部126に流下した空気は、センタコンソール1 17の後端面にに設けられたリアベント吹出口128か ら、後席乗員に向けて吹き出される。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上記従 来の後部座席空調を伴う車両用空気調和装置の車両への 搭載は、車両組立ラインの車室内組立工程において、狭 小な車室内で作業をしにくい姿勢で行わなければなら ず、しかもリアダクト119、インストロアパネル11 6およびセンタコンソール117等大小種々の車両部品 を多数集中してそれぞれ順次所定の位置に取り付ける作 業が要求される。このように、難作業のため作業能率が 低いばかりか、組立工数もきわめて大きく、量産性の拡 大を阻害する要因となっていた。

【0006】本発明は上記のような従来技術の問題点に 鑑みてなされたものであり、本発明の目的は、車両用空 調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造を簡易かつ確実なもの として組立性を改善すると共に、生産性の向上を図ると とにある。

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するため の請求項 1 に記載の本発明の構成は、ヒータコアが内蔵 される空調ユニットに開設された空気出口に、当該空調 ユニットから吹き出される空気を案内するダクトを接続 する車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造におい て、前記空調ユニットの空気出口の近傍に第1係合部を 設けると共に、前記ダクトを内部に収納する枠体の上流 側の端部近傍に第2係合部を設け、前記第1係合部ある いは前記第2係合部の少なくともいずれか一方にテーバ 面を形成し、当該テーパ面が相手方の係合部に当接する ように前記第1係合部に前記第2係合部を係合させると とにより、前記空調ユニットの空気出口に前記ダクトを 接続するようにしたことを特徴とする車両用空調ユニッ トとダクトとの接続構造である。

【0008】また、請求項2に記載の本発明の構成は、 請求項1に記載の車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続 構造において、前記第1係合部は、空気の流れの上流側 に向いて斜め上方向の法線をもつテーパ面を有すると共 に、前記第2係合部は、下流側に向いて斜め下方向の法 線をもつテーパ面を有し、前記第1係合部に前記第2係

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ことにより、前記空調ユニットの空気出口に前記ダクト を接続するようにしたことを特徴とする。

【0009】また、請求項3に記載の本発明の構成は、 請求項1または2に記載の車両用空調ユニットとダクト との接続構造において、前記第1係合部または前記第2 係合部に、空気の流れに直交する方向の当該係合部相互 の位置決めをする位置決め部を設けたことを特徴とす る。

[0010]

【作用】請求項1記載の本発明にあっては、車両組立ラ インの車室内組立工程において、まず、予めダクトを枠 体の内部に収納するようにして取り付ける。次いで、ダ クトを内部に収納した枠体の第2係合部あるいは空調ユ ニットの第1係合部のテーパ面を相手方の係合部に当接 させてスライドさせながら簡単に係合させつつ、一体化 されたダクトおよび枠体の上方からの組み付けがなさ れ、しかも同時に空調ユニットとダクトとの接続が行わ れる。とのようにして狭小な車室内においても空調ユニ ットとダクトとの接続が簡易かつ確実に行われると共 に、組立工数も低減される。

【0011】請求項2記載の本発明にあっては、ダクト を内部に収納する枠体の第2係合部および空調ユニット の第1係合部のそれぞれのテーバ面同士を当接させて、 上流側の方向にスライドさせながら簡単に係合させつ つ、一体化されたダクトおよび枠体の上方からの組み付 けがなされ、しかも同時に空調ユニットとダクトとの接 続が行われる。また、テーパ面の作用により、ダクトの 空気入口が空調ユニット側に押圧され気密性が向上す

【0012】請求項3記載の本発明のように構成すれ ば、位置決め部により、組立時における空気の流れに直 交する方向の位置決めがなされる。

[0013]

【実施例】以下、本発明の一実施例を図面に基づいて説 明する。図1は、本発明の車両用空調ユニットとダクト との接続構造を適用した空調ユニットアセンブリの連結 した状態を示す側面図、図2(A)は、図1に示される ヒータユニットの平面図、同図(B)は、同ヒータユニ ットの側面図、図3(A)は、図1に示されるセンタコ ンソールを示す要部断面図、同図(B)は、リアダクト を示す側面図、図4(A)(B)(C)は、図1に示さ れるヒータユニットの後端部近傍を示すそれぞれ側面 図、平面図、および後方から見た図、図5(A)(B) (C)は、図1に示されるセンタコンソールの前端部近 傍を示すそれぞれ側面図、平面図、および前方から見た 図、図6は、図1に示される空調ユニットとダクトとの 接続構造を示す部分拡大側面図である。なお、理解の容 易のため、便宜上、車両の進行方向(図1の右方向)を 前方、反対方向を後方として説明を行う。

ユニットアセンブリは、車両用空調装置の空調ユニット としてのヒータユニット13を主要部とし、このヒータ ユニット13にインストロアパネル16、リアダクト1 9 (ダクトに相当する) およびセンタコンソール 1 7 (枠体に相当する)を連結して構成されている。

【0015】前記ヒータユニット13を有する車両用空 調装置は、ダッシュパネル、フロアパネル等(いずれも 図示せず)により形成された車室内の前席の前方の極め て狭小な収納空間内に収納される。一般的に、車両用空 調装置は、車室内空気と車室外空気とを選択的に取り込 むインテークユニット(図示せず)と、図2に示すよう に、インテークユニットから流下してきた空気を冷却す るクーラユニット12と、クーラユニット12により冷 却された空気をエアミックスドア6により所望の比率で 分岐し、

一部の空気をヒータコア1により加熱する等し て所定の温度の空気にしたりあるいは加熱せずに、ベン | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L = 1 | L =クトを介して、また後述する空気出口34からリアダク ト19を介して車室内に吹き出すヒータユニット13と を有しており、風量、温度、吹出口等を適宜制御し、車 室内乗員が所望する温度状態となるように車室内の空調 を行なっている。

【0016】とのように、車両用空調装置は、通常、車 幅方向左右に温調された空気を均等に吹き出されるよう にヒータユニット13が車幅方向略中央部分に設けられ

【0017】また、図1に示したように、車室内の前席 前方の中央部分にインストロアバネル16が設置され、 その開口部にテープデッキやラジオなどからなるオーデ ィオ機器15が装着され、取り付け面を図示しないクラ スターリッドで覆うようにしてある。

【0018】センタコンソール17は、インストロアバ ネル16から後方に向けて延伸するように配置されてお り、車両フレームに固定される。このセンタコンソール 17は樹脂材料から成形され、その後方側面部において アングル20を介して車両フレーム21に固定される。 図1および図3 (A) に示したように、センタコンソー ル17には、小物を入れる収納空間23が形成され、と の収納空間23の上面口を開閉する蓋部材24が開閉自 40 在に取り付けられている。

【0019】本実施例では、センタコンソール17の内 部にリアダクト19が収納される。リアダクト19は、 車両用空調装置のヒータユニット13からの空気を車室 内後席に向けて案内するためのものであり、ミッション レバーを挿通し得るように二股形状に形成されている。 【0020】センタコンソール17にリアダクト19を 取り付ける場合には、図3に示すように、センタコンソ ール17の内側面41に形成された第1係合リブ42 に、リアダクト19の外側面43に形成された第2係合 【0014】図1に示したように、本実施例に係る空調 50 リブ44を嵌合させる。これにより、センタコンソール

17とリアダクト19とが一体化されてコンソールボッ クスアッシ10を構成している。なお、係合リブ41, 42は補強手段としても機能する。

【0021】前記リアダクト19も樹脂材料から成形さ れ、図1および図3(A)に示すように、センタコンソ ール17の下面側に形成された下面開放口22から当該 センタコンソール17の内部に組み付けられるようにな っている。図3 (B) にも示すように、リアダクト13 の前端には、車両用空調装置からの空気を導入する空気 入口25が形成され、下流側後端には、斜め後方に向け 10 て立ち上がったリアベント部26と、車幅方向に延びる リアフット部27とが分岐して形成されている。リアベ ント部26に流下した空気は、センタコンソール17の 後端面に形成したリアベント吹出口28から、後席乗員 の上半身に向けて吹き出され、一方、リアフット部27 に流下した空気は、センタコンソール17の側面に形成 したフット吹出口29から、後席乗員の足元に向けて吹 き出される。なお、図示省略するが、リアベント部26 またはリアフット部27への配風量を制御するドア体が 両部への分岐位置に設けられている。

【0022】図2に示したように、車両用空調装置のヒ ータユニット13は、左右に分割された第1のケース3 1と第2のケース32とを接合してなる本体ケース30 を有しており、後部座席に吹き出すべき調和空気を取り 出すと共に後方に向けて延伸する空気ダクト33が一体 的に形成されている。この空気ダクト33の空気出口3 4にリアダクト19の空気入口25が、図示しないシー ル部材を介して接続される。なお、図2中の符号「7」 は、オーディオ機器15が装填される収納部を示してお り、ヒータユニット13の本体ケース30に一体成形さ

【0023】本実施例では特に、図4に示すように、ヒ ータユニット13の空気ダクト33の空気出口34の近 傍において当該空気ダクト33の両側部にそれぞれ、セ ンタコンソール17の前端部と連結させるための第1係 合部35が設けられている。この第1係合部35は、前 方、即ち空気の流れの上流側に向いて斜め上方向の法線 をもつテーパ面35 a と、これに連設される鉛直面35 bとを有し、上方に尖った楔形状を呈している。一方、 図3に示したように、リアダクト19を内部に収納する センタコンソール17の前方、即ち空気の流れの上流側 の端部近傍には、前記ヒータユニット13の第1係合部 35と係合する第2係合部37が設けられる。

【0024】この第2係合部37は、図5に示すよう に、後方、即ち下流側に向いて斜め下方向の法線をもつ テーパ面37aと、これに連設される後方鉛直面37b と、同じく側方鉛直面37c(位置決め部に相当する) とを有し、上方に尖った楔形状を呈する第1係合部35 が内部に嵌挿されるように下方に開口する凹状の楔形状 を呈している。なお、図中符号「38」「39」は、前 50 タユニット13とリアダクト19との接続を簡易かつ確

記リアダクト19の二股形状に形成された空気入口25 が取り付けられる開口部を示す。

【0025】図6に示すように、前記第1係合部35に 前記第2係合部37をそれぞれのテーパ面35a,37 aが当接するように係合させることにより、ヒータユニ ット13の空気出口34にリアダクト19の空気入口2 5を簡単に接続することができる。また、テーパ面35 a, 37aの作用によりリアダクト19の空気入口25 がヒータユニット13の空気出口34の方向に押圧する ようにして取り付けられるので気密性が確保できる。

【0026】とのように、リアダクト19をセンタコン ソール17の内部に組み付けた状態で、センタコンソー ル17の第2係合部37をヒータユニット13の第1係 合部35に対して上方から組み付け、テーバ面35a, 37 a同士を当接させて前方にスライドさせながら簡単 に係合させつつ、インストロアパネル16とセンタコン ソール17との組み立てを行うことができ、しかも、こ れにより同時にヒータユニット13とリアダクト19と の接続が完了するようになっている。なお、第2係合部 37の側方鉛直面37 c に第1係合部35の側端部が当 接され、組立時における横方向(空気の流れに直交する 方向)の位置決めが可能である。

【0027】次に、本実施例の作用を説明する。車両組 立ラインの車室内組立工程において、ヒータユニット1 3にインストロアパネル16、リアダクト19およびセ ンタコンソール17を連結して空調ユニットアセンブリ を組み立てる場合にあっては、まず、予めセンタコンソ ール17の下面開放口22から、リアダクト19の第2 係合リブ44の先端部をセンタコンソール17の第1係 合リブ42に嵌め込むようにして相対的に押し込みコン ソールボックスアッシ10を組み立てる。

【0028】次いで、とのようにしてセンタコンソール 17とリアダクト19とを組み付けて一体化したコンソ ールボックスアッシ10を、センタコンソール17の第 2係合部37がヒータユニット13の第1係合部35に 係合するように上方から組み付け、インストロアパネル 16とセンタコンソール17との組み立てを行う。そし て、アングル20と車両フレーム21とを締結して、車 両への組み付けが完了する。

【0029】とのように、本実施例によれば、センタコ ンソール17の第2係合部37およびヒータユニット1 3の第1係合部35のそれぞれのテーパ面35a, 37 a同士を当接させて前方にスライドさせながら簡単に係 合させつつ、リアダクト19を内部に収納したセンタコ ンソール17を上方から組み付けてインストロアパネル 16との組み立てを行うことができ、しかも同時にヒー タユニット13とリアダクト19との接続が可能とな る。

【0030】したがって、狭小な車室内においてもヒー

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実に行うことができると共に、組立工数も低減でき、ひいては、生産性の大幅な向上を図ることが可能となる。【0031】また、テーパ面35a,37aの作用により、リアダクト19の空気入口25がヒータユニット側に押圧され気密性が向上する。

【0032】なお、以上説明した実施例は、本発明の理解を容易にするために記載されたものであって、本発明を限定するために記載されたものではなく、したがって、上記実施例に開示された各要素は、本発明の技術的範囲に属する全ての設計変更や均等物をも含む趣旨である。

【0033】上述した実施例では、ヒータユニット13の第1係合部35およびセンタコンソール17の第2係合部37のそれぞれにテーバ面35a,37aを形成するようにしたが、本発明はこの構成に限られるものではなく、たとえば、テーバ面をいずれか一方の係合部に形成すると共に他方の係合部に突起等を設け、この突起等が一方のテーバ面に沿ってスライドするようにして係合させる構成とすることもできる。また、ヒータユニット13とリアダクト19との接続構造について説明したが、他の部分のダクト接続構造にも適用することが可能である。

[0034]

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、請求項1記載の本発明によれば、前記空調ユニットの空気出口の近傍に第1係合部を設けると共に、前記ダクトを内部に収納する枠体の上流側の端部近傍に第2係合部を設け、前記第1係合部あるいは前記第2係合部の少なくともいずれか一方にテーパ面を形成し、当該テーパ面が相手方の係合部に当接するように前記第1係合部に前記第2係合部を係合させることにより、前記空調ユニットの空気出口に前記ダクトを接続するようにしたので、ダクトを内部に収納する枠体の第2係合部あるいは空調ユニットの第1係合部のテーパ面を相手方の係合部に当接させてスライドさせながら簡単に係合させつつ、ダクトを内部に収納した枠体の上方からの組み付けを行うことができ、しかも同時に空調ユニットとダクトとの接続を行うことができる。

【0035】したがって、狭小な車室内においても空調 ユニットとダクトとの接続を簡易かつ確実に行うことが 40 できると共に、組立工数も低減でき、ひいては、生産性 の大幅な向上を図ることが可能となる。

【0036】請求項2記載の本発明によれば、第1係合部は、空気の流れの上流側に向いて斜め上方向の法線をもつテーバ面を有すると共に、第2係合部は、下流側に向いて斜め下方向の法線をもつテーバ面を有するので、ダクトを内部に収納する枠体の第2係合部および空調ユ

うのテーノ

ニットの第1係合部のそれぞれのテーパ面同士を当接させて、上流側の方向にスライドさせながら簡単に係合させつつ、ダクトを内部に収納した枠体の上方からの組み付けを行うことができ、しかも同時に空調ユニットとダクトとの接続を行うことができる。また、テーパ面の作用により、ダクトの空気入口が空調ユニット側に押圧され気密性が向上する。

【0037】請求項3記載の本発明によれば、前記第1係合部または前記第2係合部に、当該係合部相互の空気の流れに直交する方向の位置決めをする位置決め部を設けたので、組立時における空気の流れに直交する方向の位置決めが可能となるという効果を奏する。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 本発明の車両用空調ユニットとダクトとの接続構造を適用した空調ユニットアセンブリの連結した状態を示す側面図である。

【図2】 図2(A)は、図1に示されるヒータユニットの平面図、同図(B)は、同ヒータユニットの側面図である。

20 【図3】 図3(A)は、図1に示されるセンタコンソ ールを示す要部断面図、同図(B)は、リアダクトを示 す側面図である。

【図4】 図4(A)(B)(C)は、図1に示される ヒータユニットの後端部近傍を示すそれぞれ側面図、平 面図、および後方から見た図である。

【図5】 図5(A)(B)(C)は、図1に示される センタコンソールの前端部近傍を示すそれぞれ側面図、 平面図、および前方から見た図である。

【図6】 図1に示される空調ユニットとダクトとの接 30 続構造を示す部分拡大側面図である。

【図7】 従来の後部座席空調に関する空調ユニットアセンブリの分解斜視図である。

【符号の説明】

1…ヒータコア、

10…コンソールボックスアッシ、

12…クーラユニット、

13…ヒータユニット(空調ユニット)、

17…センタコンソール(枠体)、

19…リアダクト(ダクト)、

22…下面開放口、

33…空気ダクト、

3 4 …空気出口、

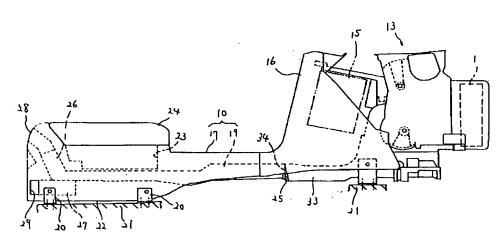
35…第1係合部、

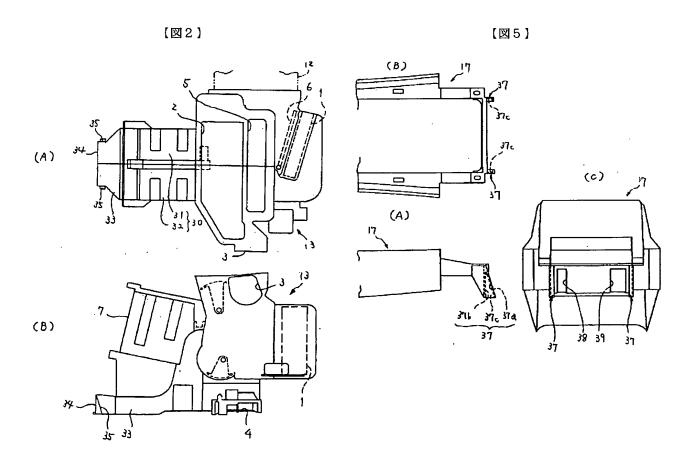
35 a …テーパ面、 37…第2係合部、

37a…テーパ面、

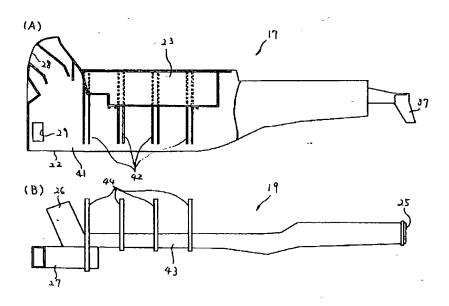
37 c…側方鉛直面(位置決め部)。

【図1】

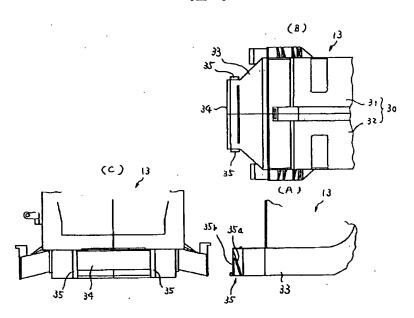


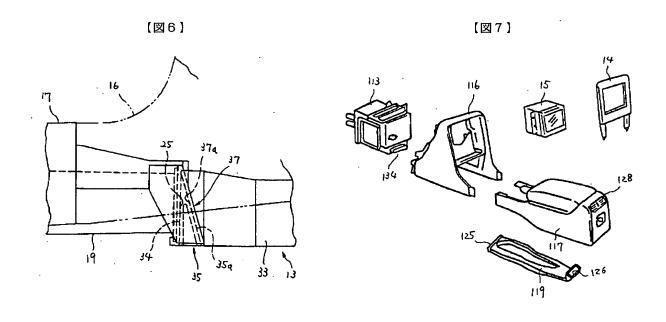


[図3]



【図4】





フロントページの続き

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